

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
Three-day nationwide strike or hartal beginning Sunday, March 22, 2015

(Mar 21, 2015)

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has called for a nationwide three-day hartal beginning on Sunday, March 22, 2015.

A hartal is a mass protest and recognized political method for articulating a political demand. As always, remain vigilant, avoid crowds and be aware of your surroundings at all times. The U.S. Embassy is taking a prudent approach to ensure safety of all employees. During hartals, the travel of U.S. Embassy employees and their family members is restricted to the Diplomatic Enclave (Banani, Baridhara and Gulshan). Pedestrian, rickshaw, bicycle and other exposed means of movement during hours of darkness is not advised. Even within the diplomatic enclave unpredictable violence, such as the use of homemade explosive or incendiary devices, can occur. Remain alert, exercise caution, minimize movement and limit exposure during hartals.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](http://www.Travel.State.Gov) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](http://www.State.gov), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information](#) for Bangladesh. For additional information, refer to our [Travelers Checklist](#).

You can visit the U.S. Embassy Dhaka web page (dhaka.usembassy.gov) for up-to-date information on travel restrictions or call the Embassy directly at (88) (02) 5566-2000. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212 and is open Sunday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (88) (02) 5566-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh